

Appl. No. 10/784,868
Amdt. dated March 23, 2005

REMARKS

Examination and consideration of this application as amended is kindly requested. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to a first office action in this case. By this Preliminary Amendment, the Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, and 17-21, and have added new claims 22-29. After this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-29 remain pending in this application.

Amendments to the Specification

The Applicants have amended paragraph 0001 of the specification to include references to related applications that were filed concurrently with the present application. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9 and 17 to better define certain aspects of the present invention. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 00054, 000182, 000184, and 000195-000197. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Applicants have amended dependent claims 2, 10 and 18 to more clearly describe certain aspects of the present invention. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000165, 000188 and 000195-000197. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Applicants have amended dependent claims 3, 11 and 19 to more clearly describe certain aspects of the present invention. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000197. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

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The Applicants have amended dependent claims 5, 13 and 21 to more clearly describe certain aspects of the present invention. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000175. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Applicants have amended dependent claims 6, and 14 to provide proper antecedent bases based upon amendments to the claims from which they depend. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000196. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Applicants have amended dependent claims 7 and 15 to more clearly describe certain aspects of the present invention. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000165 and 000197. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Applicants have amended dependent claim 20 to provide proper antecedent basis according to the claims from which it depends. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000184. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Applicants have added new claims 22-28 to properly define some aspects of the claimed invention. Independent claim 22 has been added to set forth a method according to one aspect of the present invention. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 00054, 000182, 000184, and 000195-000197. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 23 and 24 have been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000164-000165. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Dependent claims 25 and 26 have been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000189. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claim 27 has been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by that dependent claim. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000190. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claim 28 has been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by that dependent claim. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000193. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claim 29 has been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by that dependent claim. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 00043-00044, 00074-00078 and 000195. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Conclusion

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, and 17-21, and have added claims 22-29. Applicants believe this amendment serves a useful clarification purpose, and is desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendment does not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory that may be surrendered by this amendment are limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine

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of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

It is submitted that Claims 1-29 are in condition for allowance. Consideration and examination of the claims as amended is kindly requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities that can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that in any way it would help expedite the prosecution of the patent application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (561) 989-9811 is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1556.

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In view of the preceding discussion, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and re-examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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